4/16/77

Mr. Walter Zacharias
Zebra Books
521 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y. 10017

Dear Walter,

You asked a question that got me to thinking this morning when I was working on the records about which you asked - the depositions of the FBI agents in the JFK case.

You asked "Can we print the depositions?"

I said "Yes, but they'd not make a book."

But there can be an interesting, successful and important book using the depositions.

I'll explain briefly.

And I've tried the idea on an Enquirer reporter who is here and will be for another day or two. This expert in the popular sees a good book.

This particular litigation is for the results of the basic tests made by the FBI in supposedly establishing the body of the crime. I have an unprecedented and unanimous mandate from the federal court of appeals to take this unprecedented testimony from FBI agents who retired to avoid having to testify. The decision actually said that I must do this in the national interest, not mine alone.

This case, now the oldest of all under the FOIA, begins with my request of a decade ago. It is the first case cited by the Senate as requiring the amending of the Act. It is the first case under the amended Act. It therefore is explicit that the Congress in changing the law had in mind that I be able to do what I am now trying to do in court. In this sense I also have a Congressional mandate and what is not generally known is that the one who saw to it that this is explicit is none other than Teddy Kennedy.

We have been taking testimony from the most reluctant former agents all of whose memories failed as soon as they retired, all of whom swear falsely and all of this does address the basic facts of the JFK case. Even the Zapruder film.

Because this does address the basic facts of the case and does establish the opposite of the official account of the crime it provides an exclusive, original and simple means of telling the story of that basic fact and the truth about it and the official cover-up now when it is again so topical and when there is a new generation that is a good market for a book of this content.

I see it as a book that can do what I know can be done with an effective King book, break the case. Not in the sense of solving the crime but as requiring a real official effort. It will do what the House committee has not done.

The illustrations that are available are or enormous quantity and scope, from once-secret FBI files to dozens of relevant pictures. All to be used a la Perry Mason.

This will also disprove the official account of the crime, prove it was a conspiracy and include the proofs.

I do not want to write it but I think I know a good co-author. Although I have another deposition to go over and my own rebuttal testimony to prepare now this book is ready for the writing from the work I've done on the depositions and the preparation I've given Jim Lesar for the interrogations. It may be a way of doing what you suggested about me and FOIA.

There is no doubt it could be the basis for a separate Congressional investigation.

There is at least a good chance this could happen.

There is no love for these Keystone Kops of the "Sprague" committee, as Bud will tell you. He is my source.

As I recall our last discussion of this he told me others on the Hill were looking toward a different investigation - that they consider this one wrong-headed and hopeless. I'll inform Bud with a copy.

Bud will recognize this as part of the formulation I gave him for Downing when he asked me for the committee's proper approach.

He will also tell you that when it was in trouble the committee asked him how it opuld save itself he told them by taking this testimony from me, that in a day I would do the job for it.

The book would be a simple one, quite comprehensible. Popular rather than techincal.

If you are interested let me know and I'll speak to the one I have in mind as co-author.

Hastily,